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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF:

LAVINIA L. DOCK

THE PARIS CONFERENCE

IN completion of the programme as published last month—which, on account of the necessity of going to press on a certain day, was not entirely in order—we are now able to add to the papers for the first day on Nursing Education, one by Dr. Rist, of Paris, entitled “What Remains to be Done.” On Wednesday, to the papers already announced, will be added one by Dr. Dubrisay, on “Maternal Aid;” “Germany’s War on Infantile Mortality” will be presented by Sister Erna Weydemann, of the Düsseldorf hospital, and one of the members of the German Nurses’ Association; and on Thursday, under the head of Professional Organization, Sister Charlotte von Cämmerer, also one of our German members, will describe the “Nurses’ Registration Act of Germany.”

The “History of the British Journal of Nursing and the British Nursing Press” will be read by Miss Mary Burr, whom the American nurses met in Berlin,

Those who have been invited to open discussions are: Miss Mollett, who will take up the papers on education; Miss Edla Wortabet, those on public and social responsibilities; Lady Hermione Blackwood, of the Irish Nurses’ Association, those on district and private nursing; and Mrs. Kildare Treacy, president of the same association, those on professional organization. Miss Elston, the directress of the Civil Hospital Training-school at Bordeaux, will discuss “International Reciprocity.” All the letters coming from abroad promise a most successful and fruitful Conference.

The informal character of these meetings has been especially emphasized. The Constitution of the International, while it provides for the calling together of interim gatherings, makes no rules for these. At the Quinquennial official meetings it is proper that we may require national societies in membership to send their official delegates, but at interim meetings this left to their own voluntary action. We know, of course, that our societies will voluntarily respond, and, as a matter of fact, the number of representatives of societies promised grows daily.

It was desired that this Conference should be thrown open as widely as possible to all nurses, no matter whether they belong to the International Council or not. There are in Europe many groups, and many isolated nurses with whom we desire friendship and mutual interests. It was believed that many such would respond to an informal call, and results have shown this belief to have been sound. We are sure, however, that these friends will only feel an added interest in the gratifying fact that M. Mésureur, to show his interest in the nursing profession, intends honoring the meetings by his official presence and that of other eminent men, and by inviting us to an official reception. This gratifying recognition will give the coming Conference an importance which is not to be overestimated.

The regular programme has been arranged by the councillors, but, in addition, a welcome is freely extended to all those persons, whether professional or lay, who are of liberal and progressive views and who desire to contribute papers. We draw only one line—that of community of ideal and purpose.

Papers thus volunteered, though there may not be time to read them, will be published in the "Transactions," as will also discussions, in so far as these are helpful and instructive. Details and addresses may be found in "Official Announcements" of this month.

L. L. Dock, Secretary Int. Council of Nurses.

ITEMS

THE "Hospital," which has always been an intensely virulent opponent of organization on a self-reliant, self-ruling, and independent basis among nurses, is greatly disturbed by the news of the coming Conference in Paris. It has written a series of editorial attacks which are without a doubt unique in journalism, or, perhaps, only the recent municipal campaign in Chicago can show their parallel. Few American nurses read this paper, and those who do, do not form their opinions by it. It is not, therefore, worth while to do more than note, in passing, the long history this paper has had as an opponent of every step which has tended to bring nurses forward out of the economic dependence in which it has been to the interest of exploiters to keep them.

Of old, the typical English bully, as persuasively set forth in the fiction of our childhood, was not above crushing the woman who got

in his way with his manly fist; or even, it might be, with his freedom-loving heel. But this is a civilized age. Such crude methods are now a little obsolete. It is better, now, to write editorials to make the world ask whether there are any decent journalistic ethics.

“The Pen is mightier than the Boot.”



SALT SOLUTION—The use of the continuous salt solution by the bowel—as adopted by Dr. J. B. Murphy in the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago. The patient on return from the operating room is placed immediately in Fowler’s position—with the use of the back rest and pillows—a support under the knees to prevent the patient slipping down in bed is necessary. A hair knee roll held firmly by tying a strong piece of roller bandage on each side and tying to the head of the bed is usually a firm support. The irrigator containing the normal salt solution is tied securely to a standard on a level with the patient’s head, low pressure is of course desired, the solution running drop by drop, one pint each two hours. The solution is kept hot by wrapping cotton around the pail, binding it on with flannel bandages and keeping it tightly covered. A bottle of hot water is kept in the pail also keeping up the temperature until the end of the two hours when renewed. Instead of the ordinary glass enema-point a straight vaginal douche point is used, the several openings allowing the solution to run more slowly and the smooth, bulb-like point being less irritating to the rectum. Every care is necessary to prevent irritation of the rectum, the continued pressure of the douche point being very aggravating to the patient. With patients afflicted with a constant tenesmus, it is necessary, in some cases, to discontinue the use of the treatment until this trouble is quieted. A high flushing is given each morning to cleanse the bowel, thus relieving the patient considerably.

This treatment as a rule is kept up about three days, sometimes a week if the condition of the patient warrants. Pads made of cotton, the rubber ring and pillows under the back, are used for the comfort of the patient as the position when used night and day is very apt to become trying. The treatment is used chiefly for stimulation and the relief of thirst.—*Miss Crawford, in the Illinois Training-school Alumnae Report.*